

# PL/PW Council DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

## Executive Summary

### **Goal A: Maximize access to public lands while respecting and understanding private property rights.**

**Recommendation 1:** The Governor should coordinate the appointment of an Interagency Access Committee, led by MACO, with representatives from the BLM, USFS, USFWS, DNRC and FWP, to be charged with: (1) developing an inventory of public roads; (2) developing an inventory of public lands where public access is restricted or not available, and; (3) issuing an annual report that will be made available to the public and agencies to assist with projects and programs designed to promote public access to public lands. Adequate funding and personnel should be provided to fulfill this recommendation.

**Recommendation 2:** FWP should develop voluntary corner-crossing access agreements with private landowners through the FWP Access Public Lands Program that will provide public access to public land that is not otherwise legally accessible.

**Recommendation 3:** FWP should continue and expand the existing program to mark boundaries and legal entry/ exit points on legally accessible state and federal public lands.

**Recommendation 4:** Create a new license statute by combining elements of “Native Montana Nonresident License” (MCA 87-2-514) with current “Home to Hunt license” (MCA 87-2-526).

### **Goal B: Improve communication and relationships among outfitters, landowners, hunters, and Fish, Wildlife, & Parks in order to understand and respect each other.**

**Recommendation 5:** FWP should market, advertise, and more strategically communicate the value and availability of FWP access options to landowners and other stakeholders.

### **Goal C: Increase public access to private property and outfitted lands owned by traditional and non-traditional landowners by addressing their needs and building relationships.**

**Recommendation 6:** FWP should expand the options within the *existing* statutory authority of MCA 87-2-513 (*Landowner Elk Permit for Access Program – formerly referred to as HB 454 Program*) to allow issuance of either-sex or antlerless elk permit(s) to a landowner who offers free public hunting through a contractual public elk hunting access agreement.

### **Goal D: Improve hunter compliance and recognize good behavior.**

**Recommendation 7:** The Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project (HLSP) should be supported, encouraged, updated, improved, and expanded.

**Recommendation 8:** Develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that recognize and publicize good hunter/landowner relations.